

## Message Text

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15  
ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAB-01 SCCT-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W  
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P R 200954Z JAN 76  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5904  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, SY, UN  
SUBJ: SYRIAN MFA OFFICIAL SOURCE COMMENTS ON SYRIAN  
POSITION IN SC

1. SUMMARY: TWO STATEMENTS BY MFA SOURCE IN SYRIAN  
PAPER HAVE ASSERTED SYRIAN WILLINGNESS  
TO COMPROMISE ON UNSC RESOLUTION TEXT SO LONG AS  
PRINCIPLES OF TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND ESTABLISHMENT  
OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS PRESERVED. GENEVA CONFERENCE  
OR ANY OTHER CONFERENCE MUST ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO  
EXECUTE THESE PRINCIPLES; OTHERWISE IT IS OF LITTLE  
VALUE. U.S. THREATS TO USE VETO ARE "PSYCHOLOGICAL  
WARFARE." SYRIA MAY BE HINTING THAT ITS ATTENDANCE  
AT MEPC CONDITIONAL UPON PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION BY  
SECURITY COUNCIL. END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN PAPER TISHRIIN JAN 16 AND 18 PUBLISHED  
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STATEMENTS BY FOREIGN MINISTRY "OFFICIAL SOURCE"

CONCERNING SARG POSITION IN SECURITY COUNCIL. IN  
FIRST ARTICLE SOURCE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) REAFFIRMATION OF SYRIAN VIEW THAT "BASIC TASK"  
OF SC REMAINS IMPLEMENTING PRINCIPLES OF TOTAL ISRAELI  
WITHDRAWAL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS  
ACCORDING TO TIMETABLE, FOLLOWED BY ARRANGEMENTS  
"DEEMED SUFFICIENT BY SC TO SECURE JUST PEACE,  
PROVIDING THAT ANY DISCUSSIONS OR EFFORTS BE WITH  
PARTICIPATION OF ALL PARTIES ON EQUAL FOOTING  
INCLUDING PLO."

B) "WE IN SYRIA DO NOT ADHERE TO SPECIFIC  
FORMULA WITH RESPECT TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR ESTABLISHING  
JUST PEACE. WE SUPPORT ANY FORMULA WHICH GUARANTEES  
(JUST PEACE) WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF (ABOVE) TWO  
FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES."

C) "WE TRYING TO AVOID AMERICAN VETO BUT ATTEMPTS  
TO AVOID VETO SHALL NOT COMPEL US TO OFFER ANY  
CONCESSIONS RELATED TO THESE TWO PRINCIPLES."

D) "GENEVA CONFERENCE NOT ONLY FORMULA TO REACH JUST  
AND DURABLE PEACE BECAUSE PEACE CONFERENCE CONNECTED  
WITH RECONFIRMING THE FUNDAMENTAL TWO PRINCIPLES.  
PEACE CONFERENCE SHOULD EXECUTE THESE TWO PRINCIPLES.  
HOWEVER, ANY CONFERENCE WHICH BECOMES MEANS FOR  
COMPROMISE OR RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE TWO PRINCIPLES  
JBULD NOT (PROVE USEFUL) IN ESTABLISHING JUST AND  
DURABLE PEACE. THEREFORE, SYRIA WILL NOT JOIN ANY  
PEACE CONFERENCE TO BARGAIN ON WITHDRAWAL OR PALESTINIAN  
RIGHTS. SYRIA WANTS TO DISCUSS PRACTICAL STEPS IN  
PEACE CONFERENCE, WHETHER IT IS HELD IN GENEVA OR  
SOMEPLACE ELSE, BUT WITHOUT COMPROMISE ON TWO BASIC  
PRINCIPLES AND PLO PARTICIPATION."

E) SYRIA EXPECTS TO RECEIVE MINIMUM SC MAJORITY OF  
NINE VOTES. EFFORTS PROCEEDING "SMOOTHLY" WITHIN  
ARAB GROUP TO PREPARE JOINT ARAB DRAFT RESOLUTION.

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F) U.S. VETO OF ARAB DRAFT RES WOULD NOT HALT ATTEMPT  
BY ARABS TO INVOLVE U.N. IN RESOLUTION OF ME CONFLICT  
BECAUSE ISSUE "WILL REMAIN (BEFORE) U.N., IN GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY AND SECURITY COUNCIL. EFFECT OF VETO WILL  
BE CLEAR ON U.S. INTERESTS AND ON U.S. RELATIONS  
WITH ARABS. IT WILL PLACE U.S. IN UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION.  
IN OUR BELIEF, IT WILL NOT BE EASY FOR U.S. TO USE  
VETO ESPECIALLY WHEN IT (ANALYZES RESULTS OF THIS ACTION)

ON POLITICAL LEVEL AND IN TERMS OF ITS RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS. SYRIAN POLICY AIMS AT AVOIDING AMERICAN VETO WITHOUT (COMPROMISING) TWO PRINCIPLES OF WITHDRAWAL AND RECOVERY OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. SYRIA WANTS U.S. TO VOTE FOR A POSITIVE AND JUST RESOLUTION."

G) CONCERNING SC RESES. 242 AND 338, "SYRIA CONSIDERS THESE RESES. TWO OUT OF GROUP OF U.N. RESES. CONNECTED WITH ME AND PALESTINE ISSUES WHICH COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED ALONE AS BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT. 242/338 WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE WITHIN CONTEXT OF RES CALLING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL U.N. RESES RELEVANT TO ME.

3. JAN 18 TISHRIIN ARTICLE CITING "INFORMED MFA SOURCE" ASSERTED FOLLOWING:

A) ARAB DRAFT RES HAS NOT YET BEEN PUT INTO FINAL FORM AND COULD BE MODIFIED BY FURTHER AMENDMENTS.

B) SYRIA WILL NOT COMPROMISE ON TWO BASIC PRINCIPLES, "ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS UNCONDITIONALLY AND SECURING FOR PALESTINIANS THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL AUTHORITY ON LAND OF PALESTINE." SYRIA ALSO INSISTS ON ATTACHING PRINCIPLES TO TIMETABLE IMPLEMENTING WITHDRAWAL AND REFERRING TO NECESSITY FOR RECONVENING SC BY FIXED DATE.

C) ARAB DRAFT RES MUST NOT "ENCROACH UPON ANY OF FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN SYRIAN WORKING PAPER."

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D. VISIT OF DR. KISSINGER TO MOSCOW DESCRIBED AS "EXTREMELY IMPORTANT VISIT DURING WHICH THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE DISCUSSION OF ME QUESTION."

E) DISSEMINATION OF RUMORS CONCERNING USE OF AMERICAN VETO IS "PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE." U.S. REFUSAL TO ACCEPT EXPRESSION "PALESTINIAN RIGHTS" AND INSISTENCE UPON EXPRESSION "PALESTINIAN INTERESTS" PART OF "WAR OF NERVES" CAMPAIGN AND WILL NOT INFLUENCE "PRINCIPLED SYRIAN POSITION."

4. COMMENT: USE OF UNIDENTIFIED "OFFICIAL SOURCE" AT FOREIGN MINISTRY IS RELATIVELY RARE WAY FOR SARG TO ANNOUNCE ITS VIEWS. THAT IS PERHAPS ONLY REMARKABLE ASPECT OF THESE TWO STATEMENTS, PUBLISHED

TWO DAYS APART, CONCERNING SYRIAN POLICY AT SC DEBATE. SOURCE APPEARS TO BE PROMOTING COMVBTT THAT SYRIA POSITION CONTAINS ROOM FOR BARGAINING EXCEPT ON TWO BASIC PRINCIPLES, TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND SECURING OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. PARA 2(D) SEEMS TO IMPLY SYRIAN RELUCTANCE TO ATTEND ANY PEACE CONFERENCE IN ABSENCE SC DECISION TO ESTABLISH PRINCIPLES WHICH CONFERENCE WOULD IMPLEMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, EFFECT OF SUCH STATEMENTS ON FUTURE SYRIAN POSITION IS APT TO BE REDUCTION OF SYRIAN MANEUVERABILITY VIS-A-VIS GENEVA ATTENDANCE IF IT DOES NOT GET ITS WAY IN NEW YORK.

5. DEPFONMIN RAFA'I TOLD AMBASSADOR JAN 19 THAT HE HAD BEEN THE FONMINISTRY SOURCE FOR BOTH STATEMENTS. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD BEEN MERELY RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS BY NEWLY ESTABLISHED AND, FOR SYRIA, UNUSUALLY AGGRESSIVE JOURNALISM BEING DISPLAYED BY "TISHRIN" NEWSPAPER.  
MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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